Abel Sends Lawyer Fee of 2 Rare Books

NEW YORK, April 15 (UPI)—Rudolph Abel, the Russian spy whom James B. Donovan saved from the death penalty, has sent the Brooklyn lawyer a belated fee—two 16th Century law books.

Donovan, who negotiated the exchange of Abel for U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, disclosed yesterday that the gift—two commentaries on the Justinian codes, bound in vellum had been passed across Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin last August.

With the gift was a note from Abel. It read:

"While neither a lawyer nor a book collector, I believe that the enclosed package should be a welcome addition to the library of any lawyer who collects rare books...

Please accept them as a mark of my gratitude for all that you have done for me."